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STAR WARS™

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HYPERSPACE DOCKING RING

66

Jedi starfighter's long-distance booster

Jedi Master Tyvokka

Plo Koon's Jedi Starfighter

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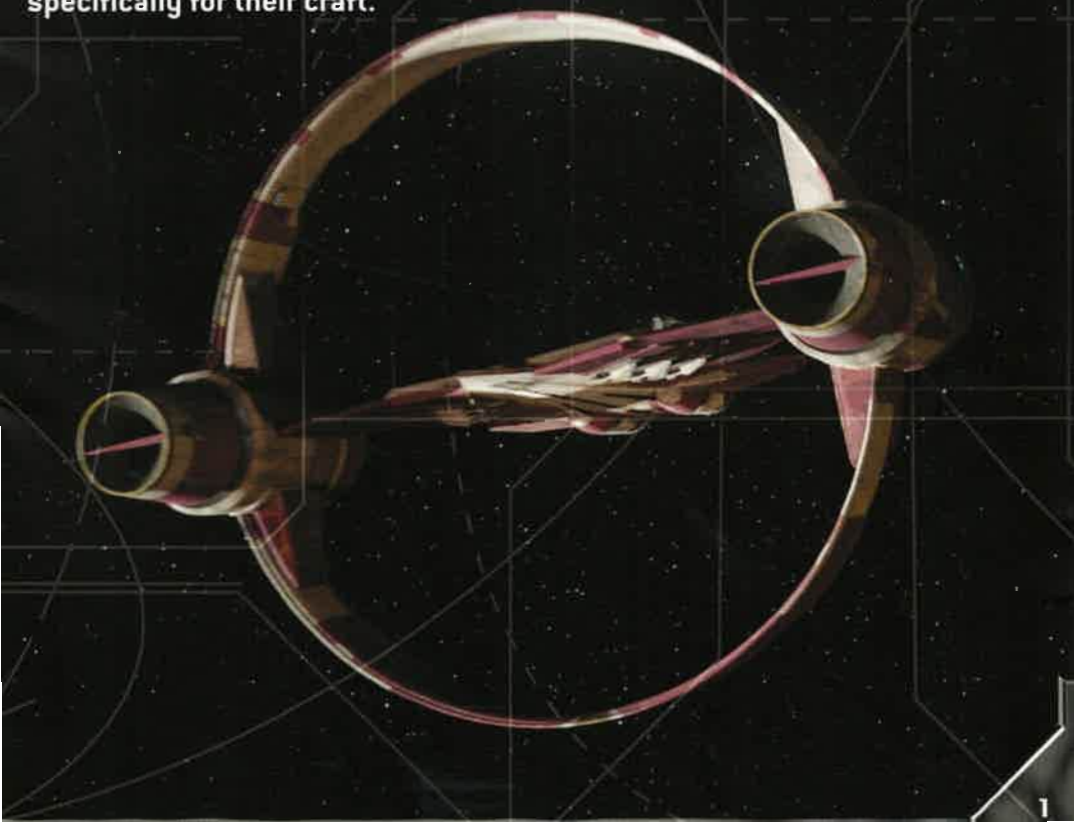
STAR WAR

At a time when miniature hyperdrive systems were prohibitively expensive for mass-produced starfighters and other smaller vessels, the only reasonable solution was a hyperspace booster system – a hyperdrive attached to something that a craft could temporarily clamp onto. The Jedi Order and the Grand Army of the Galactic Republic used hyperspace docking rings designed specifically for their craft.

"I'LL KEEP THEM DISTRACTED UNTIL YOU GET THERE. JUST DON'T TAKE TOO LONG."

OBI-WAN KENOBI



HYPERDRIVE DOCKING RINGS

EXTERNAL BOOSTER

In the days of the Old Republic, hyperdrive docking rings and other such boosters were relatively common. Many craft were too small to be fitted with their own 'off-the-shelf' hyperdrive, so a hyperdrive booster was a convenient alternative to shipping the small craft in the hold of a larger vessel.

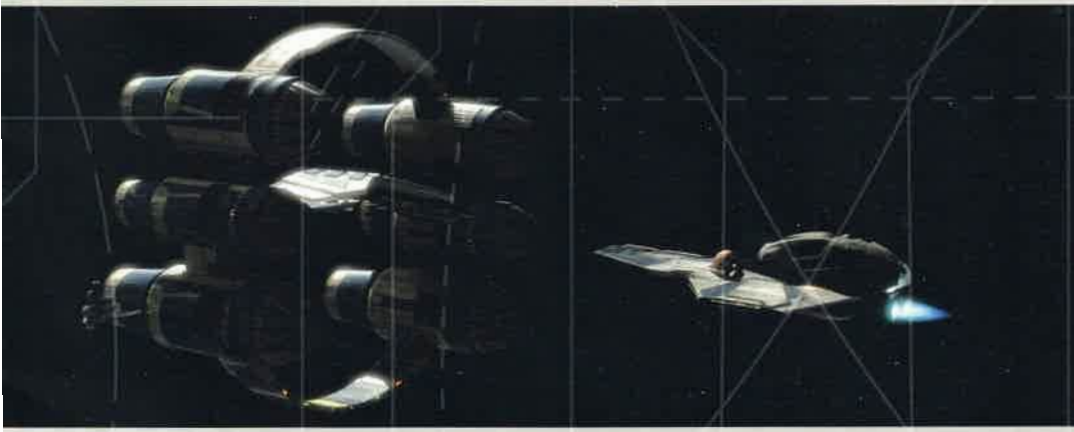
For couriers, corporate or government agents, and private individuals who had the cash to splash, hyperdrive docking systems afforded a degree of flexibility and privacy that traditional shipping companies could not offer. Also, while miniaturised hyperdrive systems were available, or could be hand-built if you had the skill of the likes of Anakin Skywalker or Saesee Tiin, they were often little better than Class 3 or lower, making for long journey times over far shorter distances. Hyperdrive docking systems offered Class 1 or, in more expensive cases, even better, and a far greater travel range. Shield projectors kept the ship and passenger safe from minor collisions. The docking systems also tended to have built-in stasis fields that slowed the perceived passage of time for the passenger and guaranteed they only aged as fast as the rest of the galaxy.

Rings of the Order

In the latter years of the Jedi Order, two distinct hyperdrive docking ring variants – the Syluire-31 Hyperspace Docking Ring and the Syluire-45 were used. Both types of hyperdrive docking rings orbited Coruscant in geosynchronous orbit above the Jedi Temple, ready for use at a moment's notice.

Syluire-31

The first type used by the Order for its Delta-7 and Delta-7B *Aethersprite*-class Jedi starfighters and, later, their Eta-2 *Actis*-class ships, the 31 had two large ion engines for sublight flight, each with its own reactor. They had stasis fields, one to each side, and shield projectors. To give the docked vessel and the ring sufficient safe mass for the initial entry to the dimension used for hyperspace travel, the Syluire systems spun super-dense hypermatter around the circumference of the ring. While both the Syluire-31 and Syluire-45



systems had the hyperdrive motivators and engines, the navigation came from the astromech droids and ship's computers on the Jedi ships. The 31 models originally fitted only the Delta-7 and Delta-7B fighters. Later, they were modified to allow a number of different craft to dock with them, including the Eta-2 fighters. When the rings were not in use, they hung silently in space waiting for the starfighter to return. Small manoeuvring jets allowed the rings to hold an orbit or otherwise maintain their position. However, if the rings were destroyed, the starfighters were effectively stranded.

Syluire-45

One of the key vulnerabilities of the Syluire-31 was addressed in the upgraded 45. While docked to their Syluire-31 rings, Jedi starfighters were slower than usual. This left the Jedi vulnerable to attack when ambushed on arrival, as it took a few fatal seconds for the starfighter to release from the booster system. The 45 had six ion engines, three to each side. Its docking systems could lock onto any of the small fighter craft used by the Order, including the V-wing. Even after the introduction of the Syluire-45 rings, the older modified Syluire-31s were still in use.

EXPLOITING THE REPUBLIC

THE JEDI ORDER'S HYPERSPACE DOCKING RINGS

Sith Lord Darth Sidious was meticulous in his plans for the destruction of the Jedi Order. Even the commissioning of the Syluire-31 hyperspace docking rings for the Order was used as an opportunity to disgrace the Jedi further in the eyes of some in the Republic.

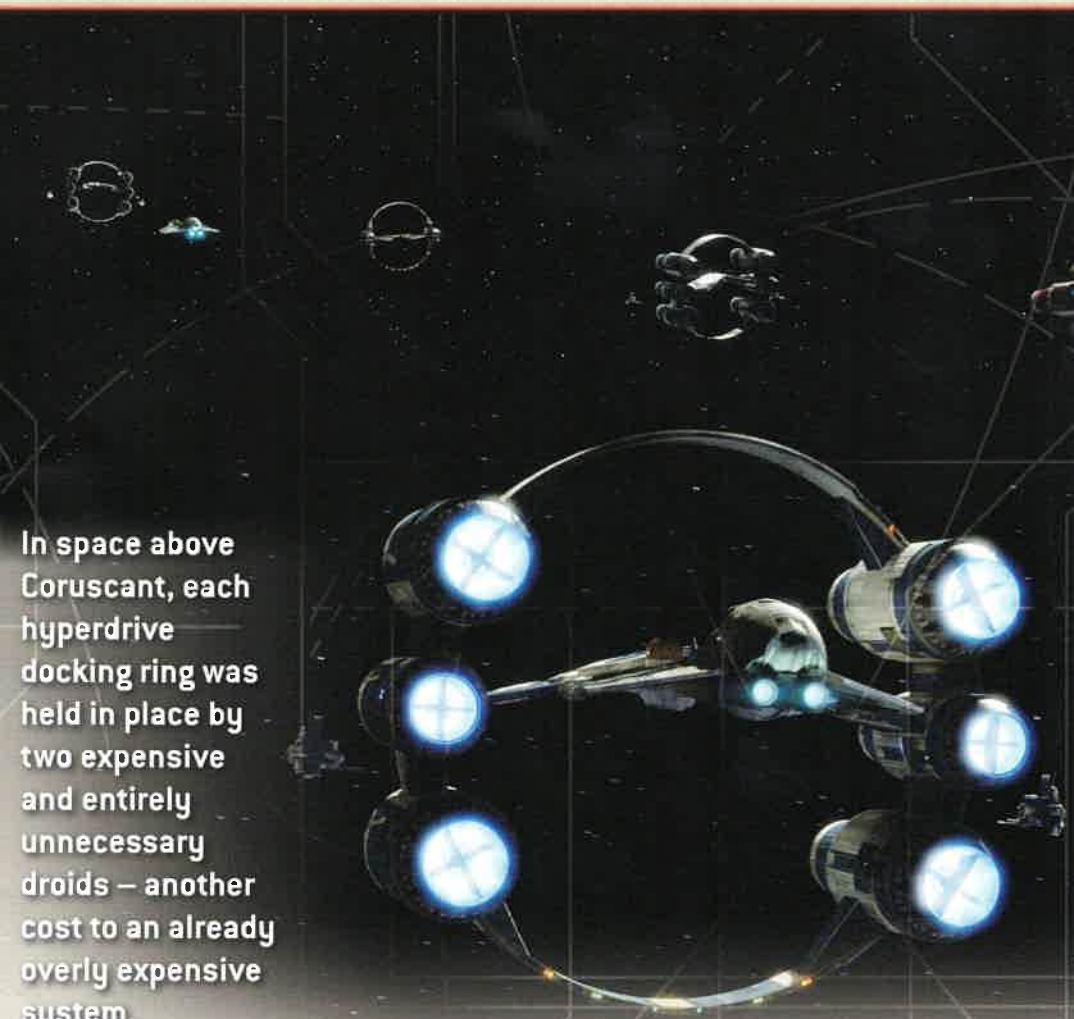
As the Separatist Crisis grew in the galaxy, the Jedi Order became more and more stretched. Previously, the Jedi used consular craft, one of the few hyperspace-capable craft owned by the Order or, more usually, public transport to get to where they needed to go. Now, as the Order reluctantly admitted the need for the Jedi to be in armed spacecraft more often than not, they required a cheaper alternative to larger vessels. Hyperspace docking systems for use with the planned Jedi starfighters seemed the simple solution and Supreme Chancellor Palpatine backed the move. However, his alter-ego, Darth Sidious, ensured things would not be so simple.

The People's Inquest

The Coruscant-based pressure group The People's Inquest, headed by spokeswoman Thrynka Padaunete, had already established a protestors' camp outside the Jedi Temple when the announcement of the acquisition of the new model Delta-7 Jedi starfighter seemingly gave the Jedi's opponents more to complain about. The group was one of a number of such organisations that had sprung up suddenly, strongly objecting to many aspects of the Jedi and the Republic's ways of operating. The negative press they generated served Darth Sidious' purposes well. The Judicial Department refused to release figures for how much the Jedi starfighter project was costing the Republic and, for once, such secrecy was perhaps for the best.

Kuat Contracts

Kuat Drive Yards designed and manufactured the Delta-7 and the Delta-7B, but they subcontracted the hyperdrive docking rings to TransGalMeg Industries Inc.



In space above Coruscant, each hyperdrive docking ring was held in place by two expensive and entirely unnecessary droids – another cost to an already overly expensive system.

TransGalMeg was primarily a designer of spacecraft, including one for the Separatists during the Clone Wars, despite their having declared for the Republic. It was not going to pass on the contract for the Republic's rings. The contract was hugely lucrative, quite ridiculously (and suspiciously) so, but it stood. Such was the corruption in the Senate, it would have taken years to sort out in review and that was time the Jedi Order and the Republic did not have. So TransGalMeg Industries Inc. developed the Syluire-31 and its successor, the Syluire-45. They were also paid handsomely for modifications to the fleet of 31s, to upgrade them to accept later model starfighters, and for a modified version of the 45s specifically tailored for the V-19 *Torrent* starfighter. This latter expense came despite the fact that many of the V-19s were being retrofitted with internal hyperdrives as they were large enough – at a cost less than that of the booster rings.

In his lair, Darth Sidious sat back and enjoyed the protests being raised against the Jedi.

JEDI MASTER PLO KOON

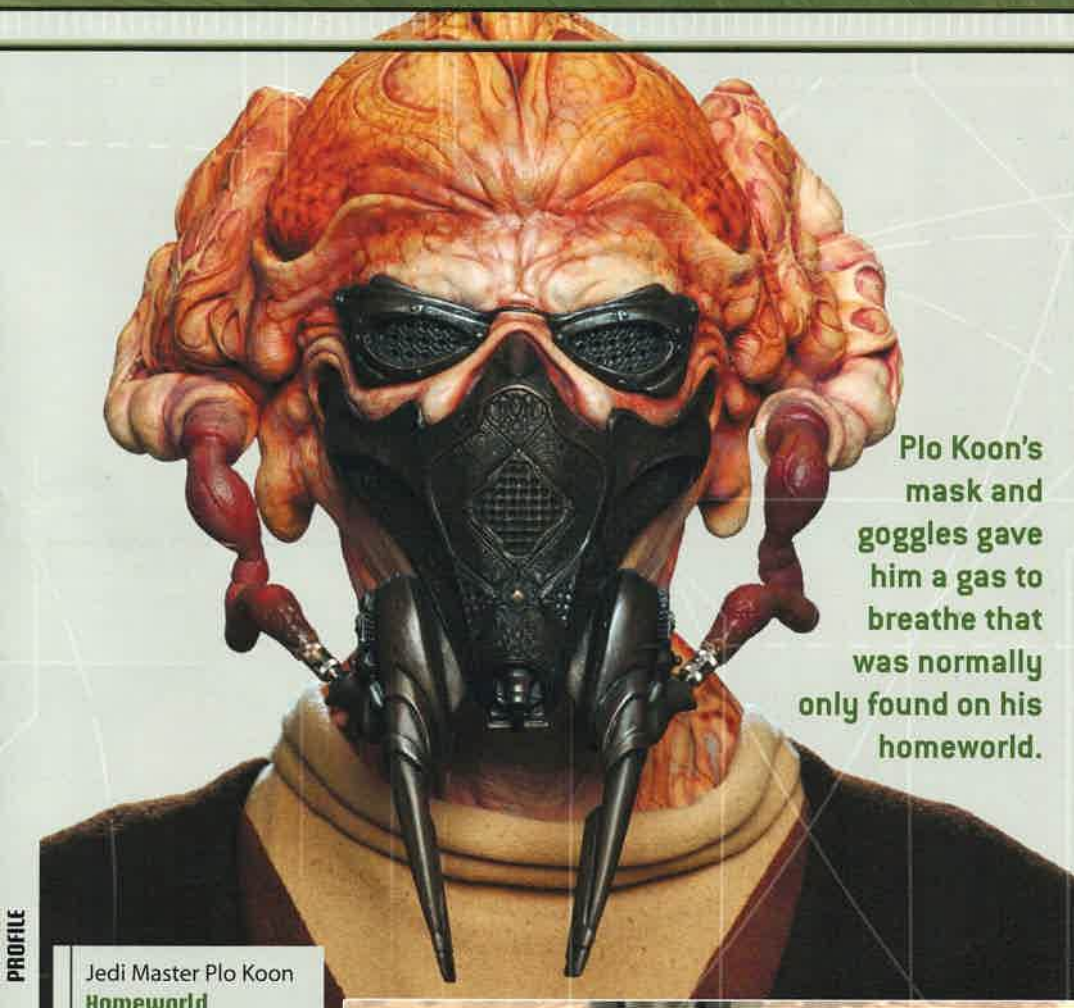
HUMBLE, POLITE, STUBBORN

In his lifetime, Jedi Master Plo Koon saw the galaxy slowly tip into chaos and war. Though he would see much suffering, and lost many friends, he remained philosophical and deeply compassionate. Like so many, Plo Koon was killed when Darth Sidious issued Order 66.

A male Kel Dor, native to the planet Dorin, Plo Koon had to wear a breathing mask and goggles. His family had a long tradition of producing Jedi, and Plo Koon was one of the most outstanding of his generation. However, he had to overcome the Kel Dor tendency to making stubborn black-and-white judgements during his time as a Padawan to Wookiee Jedi Master Tyvokka.

Harsh Lessons

The dry, often sarcastic wit that was to be the Kel Dor's trademark was one of the things that often caused Master Tyvokka some consternation so far as his Padawan was concerned. Plo Koon's tendency to see everything in simplistic terms of right or wrong, then act on that without considering the consequences, was something the venerable Wookiee had greater trouble with. However, under his Master's guidance, Koon became a remarkable Jedi and trained many Padawan of his own. On the verge of becoming a Jedi Master in his own right, Koon was offered a position on the Jedi Council. However, he was still considering the offer when he travelled with his former Master to help negotiate peace between Iaco Stark, a pirate of renown, and the Trade Federation, among others. Unfortunately, the peace conference was sabotaged and, in the resulting fight, Tyvokka was gunned down. With no time to mourn, Master Plo brought the remaining Republic forces together and led an incredible reverse in fortunes that saw the Republic win through. On his return to Coruscant, Plo Koon was formally named Jedi Master and took his position on the Jedi Council in honour of his late Master.



Plo Koon's mask and goggles gave him a gas to breathe that was normally only found on his homeworld.

PROFILE

Jedi Master Plo Koon

Homeworld
Dorin

Species
Kel Dor

Gender
Male

Height
1.88m

Weapon
Lightsaber

Affiliation
Jedi Order, Galactic Republic

Gathering Clouds

Master Plo's efforts during the Stark Hyperspace War showed him to be a cunning warrior and a master tactician. He remained humble over his part in saving so many lives and bringing an end to the conflict. His abilities as a diplomat saw him take a permanent place on the Council of Reconciliation, which worked to organise and oversee negotiations within the Galactic Senate. Unfortunately, the galaxy saw more and more conflicts spring up, and Plo's warrior skills were needed more often than he would have liked. Koon was part of a team sent to try to deal with the aggressive actions of the reptilian Yinchorri. Though Plo Koon was able to use clouds of dust and debris to conceal himself and his colleagues, so they survived to be rescued, the mission saw the loss of a number of Jedi. He would lose another close friend not long after, when Master Qui-Gon Jinn died on Naboo. Plo Koon was one of the members of the Jedi Council who travelled to Theed for Qui-Gon's funeral.

Flames of War

Over the next 10 years and more, Koon saw the rise of the Separatist Movement, the resulting refugee crisis, and the steady erosion of the good name of the Jedi Order.

Battling Bounty Hunters

During the Clone Wars, Plo Koon accompanied Ahsoka Tano to Florrum to track down Aurra Sing. Despite knowing it was a trap, Koon and Tano were able to turn the tables on a young Boba Fett, capturing him and the Trandoshan hunter Bossk, and rescuing Mace Windu and Anakin Skywalker. Sing faked her own death to escape.

'When you ask for trouble, you should not be surprised when it finds you.'

Jedi Master Plo Koon

At one point, Master Plo even had to use a mind trick to deal with supporters of the People's Inquest who had managed to gain access to the Jedi Temple on Coruscant. Things were to worsen, however. Plo Koon was present when Obi-Wan Kenobi sent a message to say he had discovered the Separatists on Geonosis. With Count Dooku and his allies massing a droid army on Geonosis, and a clone army being uncovered on Kamino, war was inevitable. Plo was one of the 200 Jedi to accompany Mace Windu to Geonosis and fought in the first battle of the Clone Wars.

General Plo Koon

Some time before the Clone Wars, Master Plo had discovered a young female Togruta called Ahsoka Tano, and had brought her to Coruscant to be trained. He and Ahsoka stayed friends through her training, even after she became Anakin Skywalker's apprentice. This connection he shared with 'Little Soka' was to save his life when Master Plo's fleet was destroyed by General Grievous' vessel *Malevolence*. Ahsoka refused to believe Plo was dead, and she and Anakin found him and a small group of clones fighting off battle droids intent on destroying their escape pod. Plo later flew with them on a mission to destroy Grievous' ship. Master Plo Koon was flying his personal Delta-7 *Aethersprite* during the Second Battle of Cato Neimoidia when Order 66 was issued. He was shot down by his escort squadron of ARC-170 starfighters, and died instantly.

GENERAL PLO KOON'S JEDI STARFIGHTERS

PERSONAL ATTACK CRAFT

During the Clone Wars, Jedi General Plo Koon flew a number of different ships as necessity demanded. More often than not, he was commanding from the bridge of a Republic *Venator*-class Star Destroyer. However, he also made use of two particular Delta-series starfighters.

Plo Koon was a gifted pilot as well as being a brilliant strategist and a cunning warrior. He was often eclipsed by the actions of the two Jedi pilots who regularly, and good-naturedly, vied for the title of the best pilots in the Jedi Order – Anakin Skywalker and Saesee Tiin. However, although his role as Jedi general saw him more often than not commanding operations from the bridge of a Star Destroyer or other capital ship, there were occasions where Plo Koon would take to the cockpit of a Jedi starfighter.

The *Blade of Dorin*

The modified Kuat Systems Engineering Delta-7B *Aethersprite*-class interceptor the *Blade of Dorin* was a gift from Anakin Skywalker to Master Plo Koon when he joined General Skywalker and Padawan Ahsoka Tano on the assault on General Grievous' ship *Malevolence* near the Kaliida Shoals Medical Centre. Skywalker had painted the fighter in a similar way to his own, giving it blue-and-white striped markings. Skywalker had also boosted the speed and overall performance of the fighter, not to mention maxing out the power of the standard laser cannon. Koon flew the fighter on a number of missions, including on Felucia.

Backward Step?

During the Second Battle of Cato Neimoidia, Master Koon was flying an early model Delta-7 *Aethersprite*-class starfighter. Though painted in a similar way to the *Blade of Dorin*, it was clearly not the same ship. With his abilities fully focused on his opponents from the Separatist forces, Master Plo could not react in time when his allies, the clones under Captain Jag who were escorting him in ARC-170 starfighters, opened fire. Plo Koon was killed instantly, his body burned away in the explosion of his engine. The remains of his Delta-7 crashed into a clone trooper staging area, killing some of the troopers there.

The *Blade of Dorin* PROFILE

Type
Modified Delta-7B *Aethersprite*-class starfighter

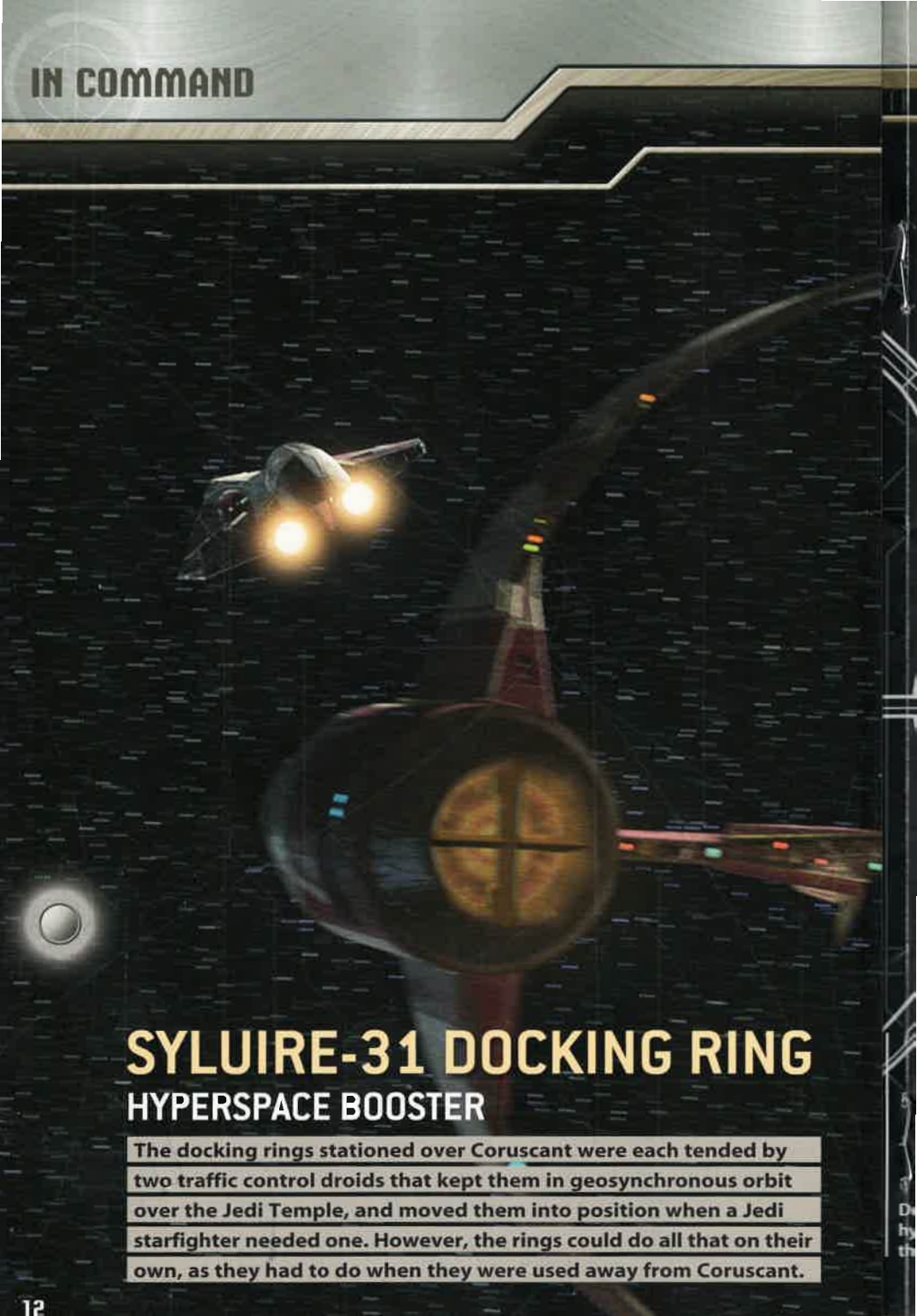
Manufacturer
Kuat Systems Engineering

Size
8m long, 3.92m wide, 1.44m high

Weapons
2x Taim & Bak dual laser cannons

Crew
1x pilot, 1x astromech

Affiliation
Jedi Order, Galactic Republic



SYLUIRE-31 DOCKING RING

HYPERSPACE BOOSTER

The docking rings stationed over Coruscant were each tended by two traffic control droids that kept them in geosynchronous orbit over the Jedi Temple, and moved them into position when a Jedi starfighter needed one. However, the rings could do all that on their own, as they had to do when they were used away from Coruscant.

SYLUIRE-31 HYPERSPACE DOCKING RING

Type
Hyperspace booster system

Manufacturer
TransGalMeg Industries Inc.

Size
10 metres diameter

Acceleration
3,250G (in space)

Sublight Engines
2x TransGalMeg ion acceleration pods

Hyperdrive
Class 1.0

Range
150,000 light years

Shields
Yes

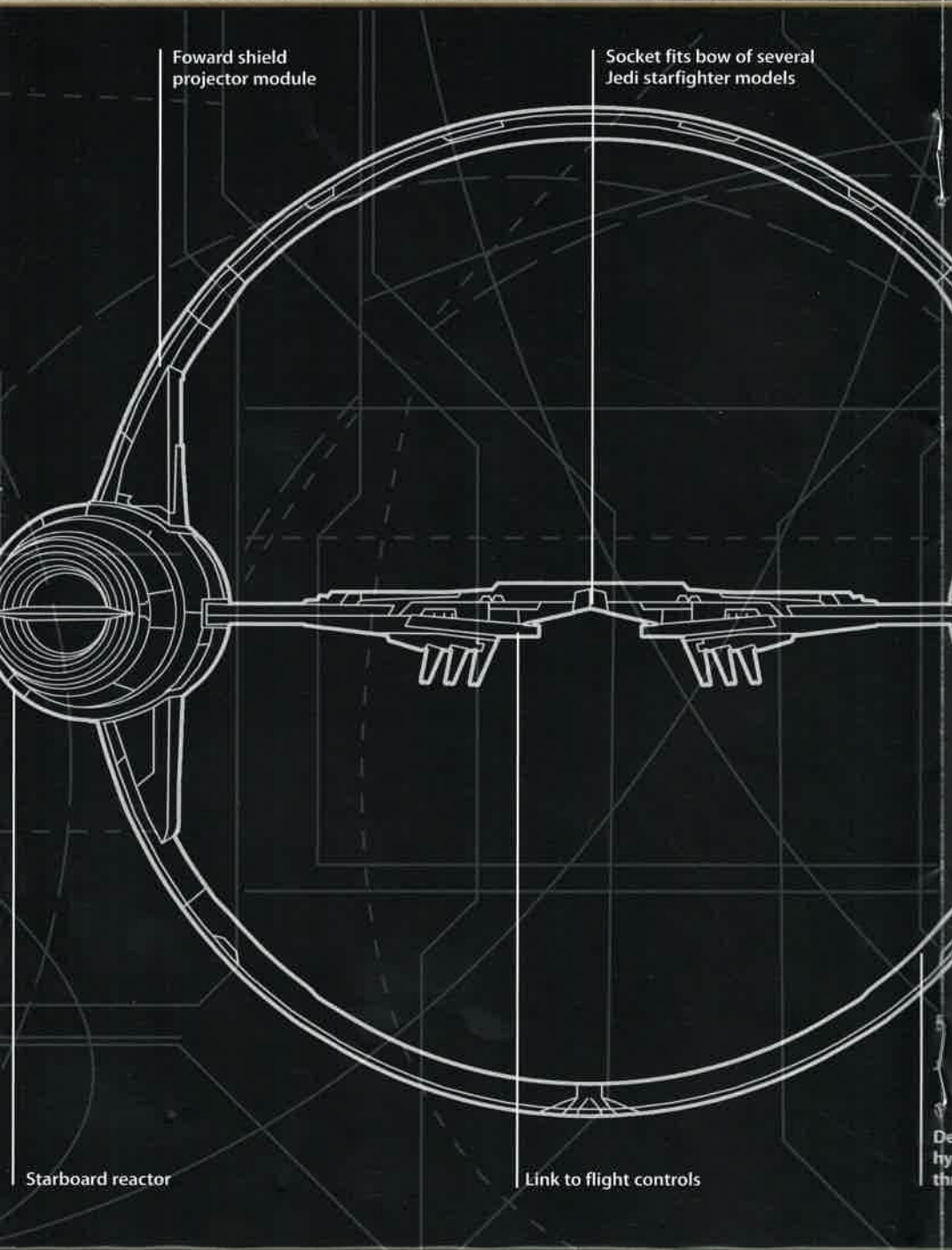
Stasis Field
Two

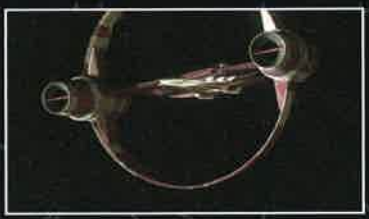
Weapons
None

Affiliation
Galactic Republic, Jedi Order

Hyperdrive motivator

STAR WARS


Foward shield
projector module
Socket fits bow of several
Jedi starfighter models
Starboard reactor
Link to flight controls



Much of the Delta-7 *Aethersprite*'s systems
developed in-house at Kuat Systems Engin
However, the hyperspace transport ring wa
subcontracted to TransGalMeg Industries I
a manufacturing concern in the Rayter Sec

Heat surge radiator

Dense hypermatter spins through ring

Hyperdrive motivator

Ion drive nozzle

Foward shield projector module

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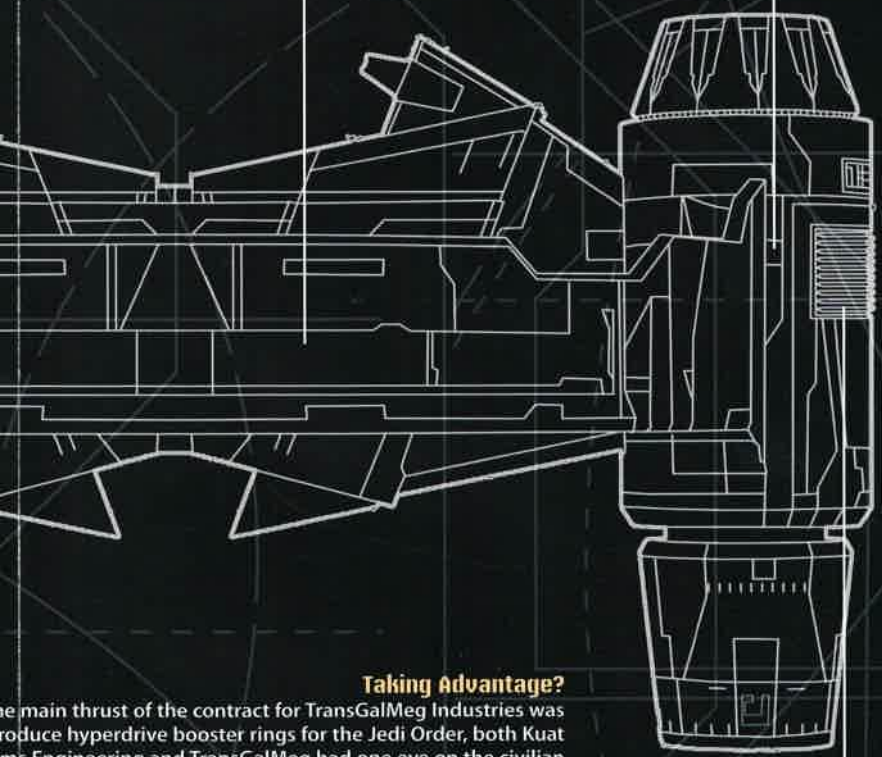


Taking Advantage?

he main thrust of the contract for TransGalMeg Industries was roduce hyperdrive booster rings for the Jedi Order, both Kuat ms Engineering and TransGalMeg had one eye on the civilian arket and the credits it promised. Kuat had already designed he two-seater Delta-12 *Skysprite*, a weaponless version of the di starfighter, alongside the development of the *Aethersprite*. ransGalMeg Industries ensured there was a civilian version of e Syluire-31 that allowed for the lack of an astromech droid in e Delta-12. So successful was the joint plan between Kuat and ansGalMeg that the Jedi Order even used the Delta-12 and its edicated hyperspace docking ring system. Meanwhile, having a lot of money on the Republic contract, Kuat and its partner ade yet more from the civilian market – much of it pure profit, eing as the Republic had already paid the development costs.

TYVOKKA

THE WOOKIEE JEDI MASTER

The Stark Hyperspace War, one of the last major conflicts before the Clone Wars, cost many lives, including that of Jedi Master Tyvokka. At the time, the Wookiee was a well-respected member of the Jedi Council and a renowned negotiator for the Republic.

Tyvokka was well known in the Jedi Order and amongst the Republic hierarchy. His abilities included a particularly strong intuition as to possible futures that were firmly rooted in the present. This allowed him unique insight into repercussions of current events, and he could see through deceptions and plots very quickly. As with most Wookiees, Tyvokka had a temper. He kept it locked tightly away, though he could still be a little snappy with those who irked him.

Last Padawan

One of those who could most easily get under Tyvokka's skin was his last Padawan, the Kel Dor Jedi Plo Koon. Plo was known for being rather excessively humble, which was something that Tyvokka could not stand. The Wookiee believed that, while an excess of pride was dangerous and unworthy for Jedi, so too was an excess of humility. Jedi, he felt, had to accept when something they did was done well as readily as they accepted responsibility for their failings. Also, Tyvokka had little time for those Jedi who sought to follow their own path – Jedi such as Qui-Gon Jinn. Still, Tyvokka was very proud of all that Plo Koon achieved, and he was content to work with Qui-Gon Jinn on what was to be the Wookiee's last assignment for the Order.

Trap on Troiken

Master Tyvokka accompanied Senator Finis Valorum and a number of Jedi to Troiken. It was the job of Valorum and Tyvokka to negotiate a settlement on behalf of the Republic with the piratical Iaco Stark. Nute Gunray of the Trade Federation was also present, as Stark had been preying on Trade Federation shipping. As Tyvokka had surmised, the whole summit was a trap. In the ensuing fighting, Tyvokka was mortally wounded when a panicked Gunray ordered his battle droid guards to kill everyone. The Wookiee's last words were to tell Plo Koon how proud he was of him.

Unique weapon

Wookiee technicians were renowned for mixing high technology with natural elements – the famous Wookiee bowcaster, for example, had a wooden stock. Jedi Master Tyvokka continued this tradition. His yellow-bladed lightsaber had a curved wooden hilt that he had fashioned himself from hardened wroshyr wood.

PROFILE

Jedi Master Tyvokka

Homeworld
Kashyyyk

Species
Wookiee

Gender
Male

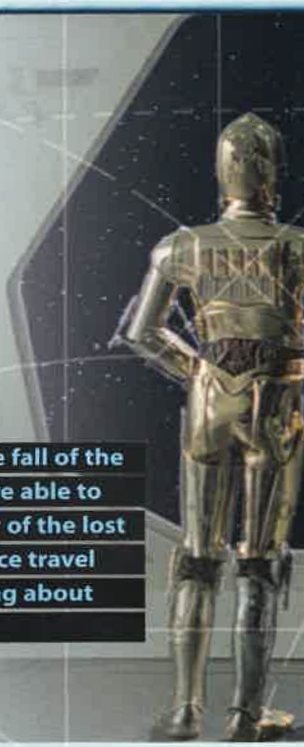
Height
2.32m

Weapon
Lightsaber

Affiliation
Jedi Order, Galactic Republic

COLONISING THE GALAXY

THE GREAT EXPANSION



Roughly simultaneously, 25,000 years before the fall of the Old Republic, Corellian and Duros engineers were able to reverse-engineer the Force-powered technology of the lost Rakatan Infinite Empire. So it was that hyperspace travel became viable, opening up the stars and bringing about the foundation of the Galactic Republic.

A million years before the Old Republic, beings known as the Celestials used hyperspace tractor beams to travel through the vast distances of interstellar space. Though the equipment was primitive in terms of the sheer size of the machinery and the power it required, the Celestials achieved nearly incomprehensible feats of planetary and stellar engineering through its use. For example, the entire Corellian System was constructed by the Celestials, who left Centerpoint Station and the Star Forge behind as enigmatic clues to their past glories.

Infinite Empire

Tens of thousands of years later, the Rakatan people created an empire that dominated a greater part of the galaxy for nearly 10,000 years. They achieved this through their connection to the Force, and it was that mystical energy field which powered the Rakatan hyperdrives. Unfortunately, the dark side of the Force corrupted the Rakata and, around 200 years before the Corellians and Duros succeeded in emulating their hyperdrives, the Rakata were struck down by a deadly virus. Their empire crumbled, and civil war saw the Rakatan people descend into barbarity and ignorance. However, the technology of the (far-from) Infinite Empire was left behind even as the Rakatan lost their connection to the Force. The humans of Corellia and the Duros had no Force powers. Instead, their engineering genius allowed them to bypass the dangers of the

The hyperdrives developed by the Duros, Corellians and the Tion Hegemony were reverse-engineered from technology left behind by the corrupt and cruel Rakatan Infinite Empire.

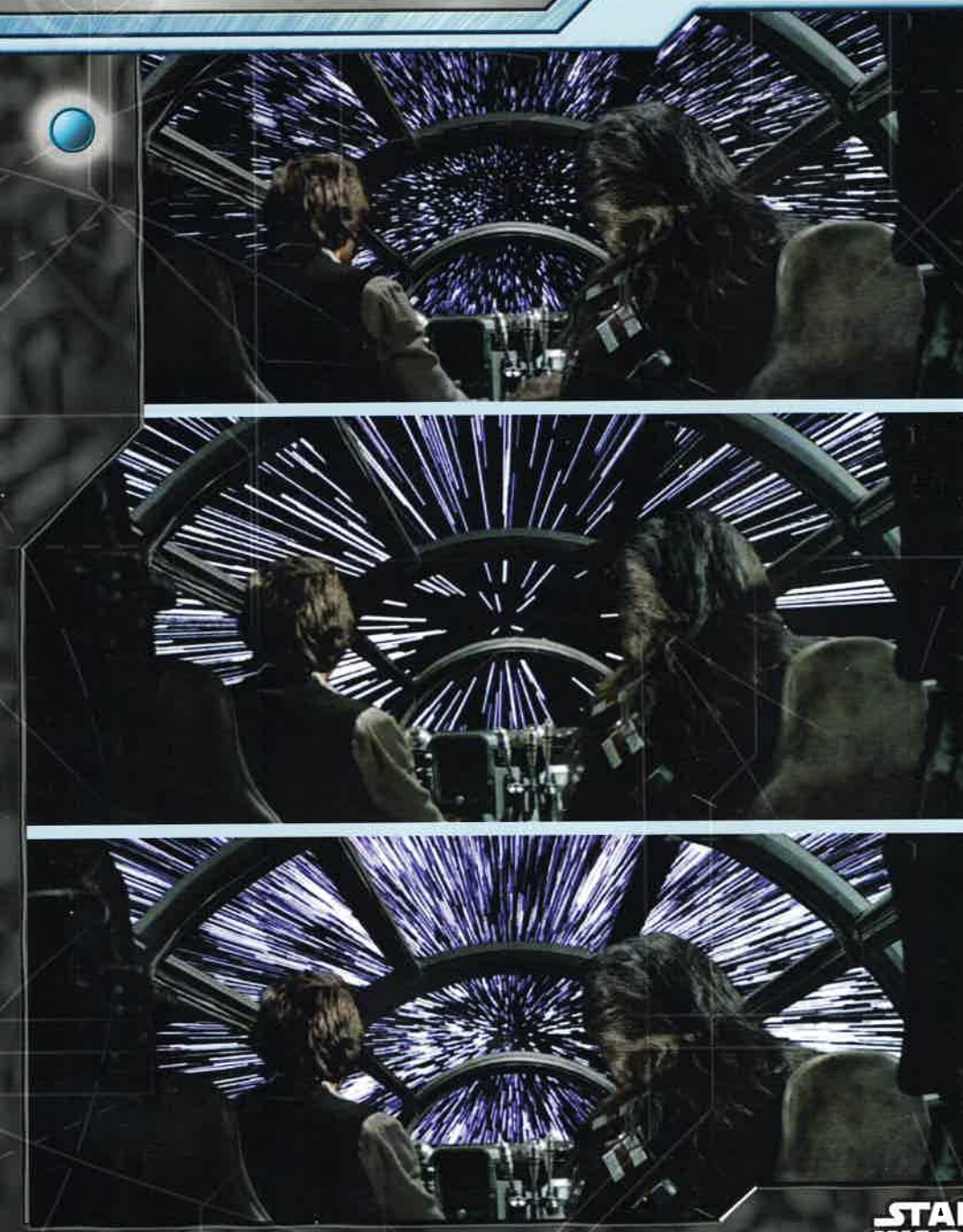
corrupting dark side, and create hyperspace technology that was to change everything.

Sleep No More

Within the Core Worlds, and a little beyond, some hyperspace travel was used. Hyperspace 'cannons' were developed that hurled starships into the lightspeed dimension. Almost immediately, those ships would then start the deceleration process that brought them back into realspace. The network of cannons allowed a degree of expansion, eventually linking the Duros to the Core Worlds. At the same time, sleeper ships were still in use, sending colonists in suspended animation far out into the galaxy. Hyperdrives made both the hyperspace cannons and sleeper ships redundant – in fact, new hyperdrive vessels reached distant systems long before many surviving sleeper ships did.

The Expansionist Era

From initial development working on from their first independent breakthroughs, it took the Duros and the humans of Corellia only two decades to get their designs into circulation. Initially, the spread of the technology was slow, thanks to the Corellians charging premium prices. Soon, however, there were a number of corporations and starship designers other than the Corellians, all selling their own unique



Sowing the Seeds

Unfortunately, hyperdrives allowed for the prospect of interstellar war. These terrible times saw great loss of life across many systems. Smaller conflicts with the Hutt Empire brought many into the Republic for protection. The Jedi Order saw internal conflicts become the First Great Schism. The Honorable Union of Desevro & Tion clashed with the Republic a thousand years after it was established, before joining the Republic as its own sector. Many thousands of years after the formation of the Republic, dark Jedi exiles from the Second Great Schism emerged from hyperspace to discover a primitive species on an uncharted world – the Sith.

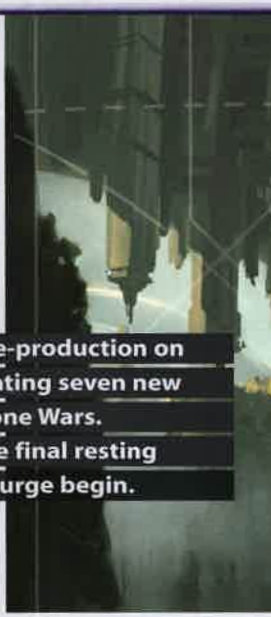
designs. The Core Worlds – including Coruscant, already the capital world, Corellia, Duro, Chandrila and Alderaan – signed up to the Galactic Constitution, setting down the legislative powers of the Galactic Senate and the General Ministry, so founding the Galactic Republic. It would stand, if shakily at times, for 25,000 years. While the Republic bureaucrats might have wanted the alliance of worlds to expand slowly, this was not to be.

Early Exploration

Early hyperspace travel required the use of hyperspace beacons. These were located in deep space, often on populated stations which in turn became trading hubs. The beacons were massive computers that stored information downloaded from ships' computers on which were the safest hyperspace routes. Craft had to jump from beacon to beacon, paying to download the next jump coordinates. The system was monitored from the Republic Spacelane Bureau on Coruscant. Coordinates for new routes were sold to the Bureau by brave, even reckless hyperspace explorers. Often entirely at random, these pioneers would make hyperspace jumps into the unknown, all hoping to be the first to discover new routes that they could sell to the Bureau for a fortune. Many of these explorers simply vanished – their ships lost in hyperspace or destroyed when they flew into a navigation hazard.

Republic's Protectors

Over the thousand years or so from the dawn of the Expansionist Era, two major hyperspace routes were established. The Corellian Run linked Coruscant to Corellia via a number of lesser systems. Later, the Corellian Trade Spine would branch off and reach to the Outer Rim Territories. Thanks to the Run, Corellia became one of the major trading powers in the galaxy. The creation of the Perlemian Trade Route, linking Coruscant to distant Quermia, was to prove significant as it led to the discovery of the planet Ossus. There, the Jedi Order had been established. Before long, contact with the fledgling Republic led to the Jedi declaring themselves its protectors.



DARK DAYS

PLANETS OF THE JEDI PURGE

On the 7 June, 2002, George Lucas launched full pre-production on Episode III by tasking the Art Department with creating seven new planets that would appear as battlefields of the Clone Wars. Ultimately, many of these worlds would become the final resting places for key Jedi as Order 66 saw the Great Jedi Purge begin.

The Crystal Planet

Visualised by artist Stephan Martinière, with additional concepts from Erik Tiemens – who contributed his crystalline iceberg world – and Ryan Church, the Crystal Planet became Mygeeto. There Ki-Adi-Mundi would lead his last charge on Separatist positions and, on the edge of victory, he would be betrayed by Commander Bacara and his Galactic Marines.

The Bridge Planet

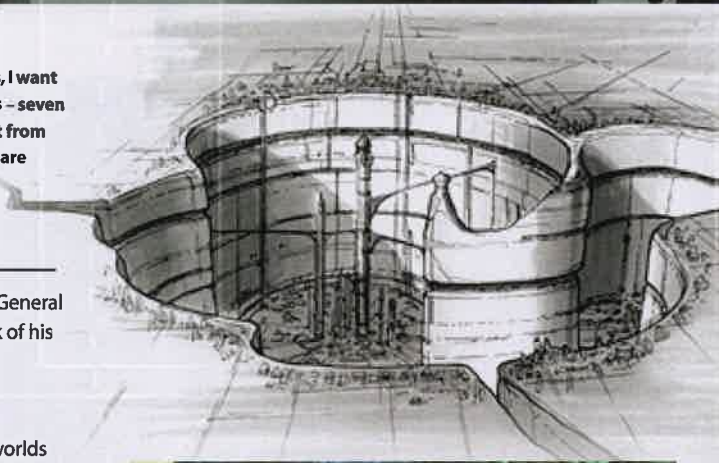
Concept design supervisor Ryan Church did the initial work on the Bridge Planet, and later developed the concept further. 'Because George liked the idea of bridges, I wanted to put it on a less generic planet,' Church said of his later work. This planet became Cato Neimoidia, the 'purse world' where Plo Koon, flying a Delta-7 Jedi starfighter, was shot down by Captain Jag's escorting ARC-170 fighters.

The Sinkhole Planet

Erik Tiemens, the other Concept Design Supervisor on the Art Department team, worked on the Sinkhole Planet. Ryan Church moved onto working on this important world in July 2002, creating paintings of the streets of what eventually became Utapau, where

George Says...

'George casually says to us, "Oh, you guys, I want you to start thinking about seven planets – seven new planets that are completely different from each other – this is where the Clone Wars are happening."' Ryan Church
'Now is the time to go way out there – to be as wild as possible.' George Lucas



Obi-Wan Kenobi – having destroyed General Grievous – barely survived the attack of his previously loyal clone troopers.

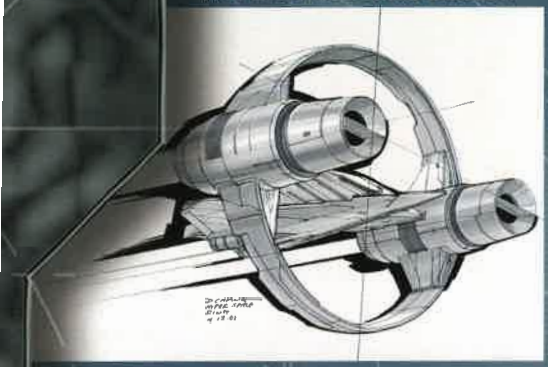
'Vietnam-style' Planet

With some of the original seven worlds falling by the wayside, Ryan Church created a jungle planet in October 2002. By November, with time pressing, six separate approved concepts, including work from Church, Tiemens, Alex Jaeger and Derek Thompson, were combined to create Felucia, where fan-favourite Aayla Secura was gunned down by Commander Bly and his trooper patrol.

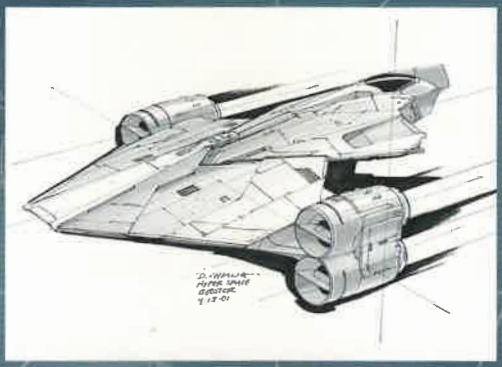
MAKING THE JUMP

CREATING THE HYPERSPACE RING

HYPERSPACE RING DESIGN



1 Artist Doug Chiang drew this version of the hyperspace rings in April 2001.

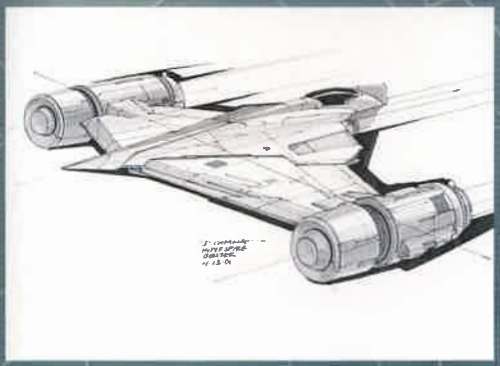


2 The original docking interface designs included this rather clunky option.

5 A sequence from Episode II that shows Obi-Wan as he arrives on Kamino, leaving his hyperspace transport ring in orbit.

6 Episode III showed that the original hyperspace rings were still in service, despite there being a new version for the Jedi to use.

Added late during the production process of Episode II, the hyperspace docking rings gave a satisfactory explanation for how Obi-Wan Kenobi's compact little Jedi starfighter could travel the vast distances from Coruscant to the Outer Rim planets of Kamino and Geonosis.



3 This more streamlined version is closer to the finished result.

4 A top-down view of the digital model, showing the final colours of the hyperspace docking ring.

7 Episode III also introduced the small droids seen either side of the new hyperspace ring, seemingly holding it in place in orbit over Coruscant.

8 The additional engines and the sleeker design fitted the look of the new Jedi starfighter perfectly.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 While many new worlds were created for Episode III, the earliest meetings threw up three worlds that had always existed in ***Star Wars*** history but had yet to be seen. Which ones?

2 Plo Koon's Delta-7 and Delta-7B starfighters have paintwork based on that of whose starfighter?

3 True or False: the hyperspace docking rings were always a part of Episode II?

ANSWERS:

1. The three planets were Alderaan, home to Bail Organa and his adopted daughter Leia, the Wookiee home planet of Kashyyyk, and a volcanic planet, having Darth Vader's castle, and where Obi-Wan and Anakin would fight their fateful duel.

2. Sometime during the Clone Wars, Koon was given the *Blade of Dorin* by Anakin Skywalker. This modified Delta-7B fighter was painted in a similar way to Anakin's own more heavily modified *Aethersprite* -class starfighter, the *Azure Angel*.

3. False. The docking rings were a very late addition during the production process, and were designed by Doug Chiang.

DARLYN BODA – DURO

Darlyn Boda
Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Darlyn Boda System

A planet in the Anoat Sector that includes Hoth and Bespin, Darlyn Boda was a 'shadowport' during the era of the Old Republic and the Empire. The Empire tried to take control, but it remained a relatively safe haven for pirates, bounty hunters and even a large Rebel Alliance cell.

Devaron
Region: Colonies
System: Devaron System

Home to the matriarchal Devaronian civilisation, the planet was covered with many thousands of rivers that flowed past low mountains through deep valleys. The Devaronians' traditional free use of capital punishment meant they were forbidden membership of the New Republic.

Di'tai'ni
Region: Mid Rim
System: Di'tai'ni System

Due to their proximity to the Both System, the Tai'ni government was a staunch ally of the Bothans. In the Caamas Document Crisis, when the Bothan home planet was threatened, the Tai'ni tricked General Garm Bel Iblis into stationing forces on Di'tai'ni, thus protecting Bothawui.

Druckenwell
Region: Mid Rim
System: Dantooine System

With few landmasses and vast oceans, this planet was quickly overdeveloped and overpopulated due to its position on the Corellian Run. Only careful monitoring and pollutant control prevented it becoming uninhabitable. It supported the Separatists, and then the Empire.

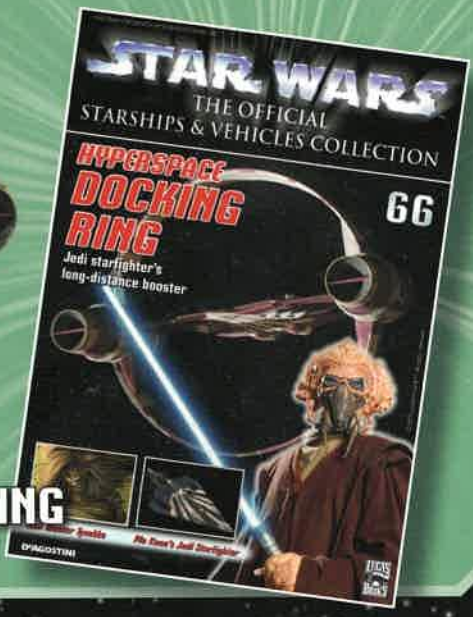
Dubrillion
Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Dubrillion System

This beautiful world was the test site for the prototype of the second Death Star's superlaser. Hidden in the planet's largest ocean, it destroyed several Rebel ships before it was in turn destroyed by Rogue Squadron, led by Crix Madine, who had recently defected to the Alliance.

Duro (or Duros)
Region: Core Worlds
System: Duro System

Founder members of the Galactic Republic, the Duros were among the first to reverse-engineer Rakatan hyperdrives and open up the galaxy. The planet was rendered almost uninhabitable when General Grievous bombarded factories on Duro, releasing toxins and radioactive pollutants.

IN THIS ISSUE



WITH ISSUE 66:
HYPERSPACE DOCKING RING

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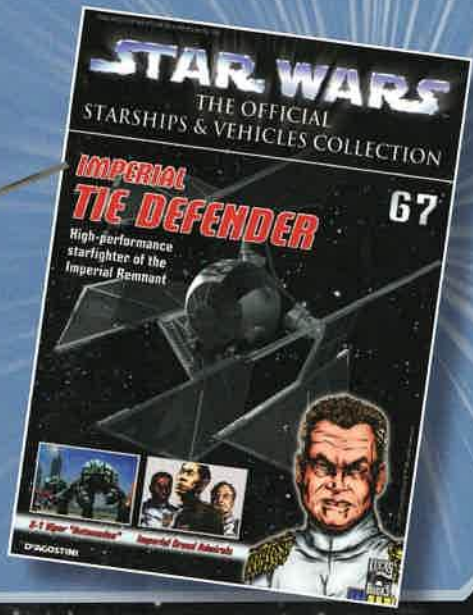
IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE



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TIE DEFENDER

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